

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

1. (Original) A blasting method of blasting an explosive device at least containing an explosive and a chemical agent in a sealed pressure vessel, comprising:
  - evacuating the pressure vessel into a reduced-pressure or vacuum state;
  - enclosing such a particular amount of oxygen that the oxygen balance in the pressure vessel becomes positive and the pressure in the pressure vessel after blasting becomes lower than the pressure outside the pressure vessel; and
  - blasting the explosive device therein.
2. (Original) The blasting method according to Claim 1, wherein the particular amount of oxygen is supplied as oxygen gas.
3. (Original) The blasting method according to Claim 1, wherein part or all of the particular amount of oxygen is supplied as an oxygen-containing alkali metal or alkali-earth metal compound
4. (Currently Amended) The blasting method according to ~~any one of~~ Claim[[s]] 1 [[to 3]], wherein the particular amount of oxygen is an amount of oxygen gas at which the oxygen gas pressure, as calculated as oxygen gas, becomes equivalent to 15% to 30% of the atmospheric pressure at normal temperature.